MCHD-SI March 14, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes from the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting of March 14, 2001

1. Index of Minutes

Items addressed at the meeting are listed below, with corresponding section numbers indicated in the column on the right.

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2. Meeting Opening

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery Springer convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, March 14, 2001, in Conference Room 3, 810 Schreider Street, Fort Detrick, Maryland.

3. Attendance

Members Present:

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery Springer, P.E., Chief, Safety, Environment, and Integrated Planning Office (SEIPO) (Installation Co-Chairman)
Mr. Gerald P. Toomey (Community Co-Chairman)
Colonel James Greenwood, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison (USAG), and Deputy Installation Commander, Fort Detrick
Mr. William Effland, Ph.D., Community Member
Mr. Michael Kurtianyk, Macintosh Realtors
Mr. Thomas Meyer, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District
Ms. Helen Miller-Scott, Community Member
Ms. Linda Robinson, Community Member
Mr. Stewart Taylor, Ph.D., P.E., Community Member
Mr. Craig Toussaint, Ph.D., Community Member
Mr. Thomas Wade, Community Member

Others Present:

Mr. Jerry Blank, Local Resident
Mr. Fred Boecher, U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground
Mr. Charles Dasey, Public Affairs Office, USAG
Mr. Joseph Gortva, Installation Environmental Office, SEIPO
Mr. Dana Greer, Local Resident
Mr. David Iseri, IT Corporation
Ms. Jennifer Jagger, Local Resident
Ms. Jeannette Johnson, Local Resident
Mr. John Justice, Universe Technologies, Inc.
Mr. Hubert Kaempf, Local Resident
Mr. Kenneth Krantz, Local Resident
Mr. Gary Pauly, Local Resident
Mr. John Pigott, Local Resident
Ms. Margaret Pigott, Local Resident
Mr. Jim Richmond, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
Mr. Bob Roberson, Local Resident
Mr. John Sinsel, Universe Technologies, Inc.

Mr. Kirk Tichner, Project Manager, IT Corporation
Mr. Michael Triplett, Local Resident
Mr. Bruce Ware, Resident Engineer, Environmental Resident Office, Construction Division, USACE, Aberdeen Proving Ground
Ms. Nancy Shropshire, SEIPO (Recording Secretary)

Members Absent:

Mr. Charles Billups, Ph.D., Community Member
Mr. Larry Bohn, Frederick County Health Department
Mr. Michael Gresalfi, Community Member
Mr. Paul Offutt, Program Manager, Frederick County Health Department
Mr. Dennis Orenshaw, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region III
Mr. Douglas Scarbrough, Restoration Oversight Manager, U.S. Army Environmental Center

4. Opening Remarks and Introductions

Lieutenant Colonel Springer welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone introduce himself/herself. Following the introductions, Lieutenant Colonel Springer asked that each person be sure to add his/her information to the Sign-In Roster and stated that we will send a copy of the minutes and the handouts to each attendee.

5. Distribution of Funding for Areas A, B, and C

Mr. Thomas Meyer provided copies of his presentation (Enclosure 1). Mr. Meyer outlined the following breakdown for Installation Restoration Program (IRP) funding for Fiscal Year 2001:

- Area A: $89K (2.07 percent). This amount includes:
  - ⇒ $3K (0.07 percent) for the Remedial Investigation (RI)
  - ⇒ $86K (2 percent) for long-term monitoring
- Area B: $3.4M (98 percent). This amount includes:
  - ⇒ $1.2M (29 percent) for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)
  - ⇒ $3M (69 percent) for the Interim Removal Action (IRA)
- Area C: $2K (0.05 percent). This amount is for the RI for the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Meyer noted that the IRA in Area B is taking the majority of the IRP funds for this year.

6. Area A Restoration Program Status Update

Mr. Meyer stated that the proposed plan was worked by the partnering group and published on March 22, 2001. The 30-day comment period will end April 21, 2001. Following a review of the comments, we will work with the MDE and the USEPA to complete the decision document by the projected completion date

of June 2001. Lieutenant Colonel Springer added that a key element to the Area A effort is that the RI/FS concluded that the past practices at Area A pose no risk to human health or the environment. The proposed plan will recommend no further action. An agency on Fort Detrick currently pumps and purifies groundwater from below Area A for use in a scientific study. As a result of that pumping process, the trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination that resulted from the spill of a coolant in the 1970s is disappearing and the plume is shrinking. If the mission for this scientific study ceases, Fort Detrick will receive notification and continue the pumping process. Mr. Meyer added that long-term monitoring will continue for 20 years and that a review will be conducted every five years during this time.

7. Area B Restoration Program Update

Copies were provided of a newspaper article—"Digging to begin at Detrick," Frederick Post, March 10, 2001 (Enclosure 2). Mr. Meyer stated that a USEPA Environmental Photo Interpretation Center Study is underway and will include a photographic analysis. The projected completion date for the Dye Trace Study Work Plan and the Chemical Oxidation Bench-Scale Test Report is April 2001. Another round of quarterly sampling was completed January/ February 2001, but the results are not validated at this time. Well 57D rehabilitation is partially complete, and we are making plans for silt removal without the addition of substantial amounts of water to the area. Lead and clay pigeon removal at the Skeet Range is almost complete. They scraped soil from the entire area into piles and tested the piles. One pile failed the sampling test that determines whether the material is hazardous. This pile will be separated into roll-offs and resampled. Most of the soil that is scraped up will be placed in the landfill at Area B. The landfill is lined and has a leachee collection system; that leachee goes to the sewage treatment plant. Residential wells immediately west of Area B (Kemp Lane and Granalta Circle) are being sampled on March 14-15, 2001.

Mr. Meyer reviewed a series of slides that show changes in the TCE plume since 1995.

- 1995: The highest concentration was about 80 parts per billion (ppb), centered around Well 37D (near Area B-11).
- Spring/Summer 1997: Concentrations over most of the area increased, with the greatest increase detected in western wells. Well 58D (a deep well with a large amount of water) was installed in 1997. We believe that development of this well pulled a lot of the concentration into that area. Robinson's Springs tested at 5,000 ppb in October 1997, approximately eight months after we dug into Trench B-11.
- Summer 1998: Concentration levels at the wells remained the same or increased. Highest concentrations were seen at the wells, and the plume appeared to be spreading out. Sampling results at Robinson's Springs decreased to 1995 levels.
- November 1999: The most elevated concentration shifted east toward Well 24D. Some low-level off-site contamination was detected.
- August 2000: Concentrations generally decreased. The plume widened a little and shifted slightly toward the east.

- January/February 2001 (Results not Validated): The distribution is similar to that found in 2000. Concentration levels decreased, but it appears that the plume expanded. Well 47D had a detection of 10 ppb.

In response to a question by Mr. Craig Toussaint about off-site contamination, Mr. Meyer stated that USEPA, MDE, and the Army all use the same formula and processes for detecting contamination. All three agencies are part of and concur with all decisions and activities concerning this issue at Fort Detrick. We want to find out what is happening with deep groundwater and are developing a process to address this issue. In response to a question by Ms. Linda Robinson about theories on why the plume shifts, Mr. Meyer stated that some changes shown in the plume are based on the wells that were sampled at the time, but that a more consistent sampling system was started about two years ago. Also, the plume seems to shift in the direction of the groundwater flow. Mr. Jerry Blank asked whether there is a potential danger that drilling monitoring wells through the pits could release chemicals that may be trapped in clay pockets around the pits. Mr. David Iseri responded that no wells are drilled through any known disposal areas. Monitoring points were screened with site instruments, such as a photo ionization detector, and samples of rock were analyzed. However, it is somewhat possible that some contamination from the disposal areas could get to the area of a well and find an easy path downward into the groundwater. Mr. Blank stated that, as a child, he lived with his parents where Well 18 is located and that, in 1970 or 1971, he saw three open trenches in Area B that contained chemicals in 55-gallon drums and broken glass bottles. He expressed his opinion that the IT Corporation has done a fine job in identifying the primary source of these chemicals.

Mr. Meyer reviewed a series of slides to show changes in the tetrachloroethylene (PCE), also called perchloroethylene, plume since 1995.

- 1995: The PCE plume was almost non-existent. The highest concentration was 10 ppb at Well 37D. The only off-site detection was at Robinson's Springs.
- Spring/Summer 1997: In Spring 1997, the highest detection was 20 ppb in Well 57D. In Summer 1997, the concentration in Well 57D increased to 20,000 ppb. Concentrations greatly increased at many wells over this period. Robinson's Springs had an October 1997 detection of 20,000 ppb.
- Summer 1998: Concentrations greatly increased in deep wells in the western part of the area. Concentrations in Robinson's Springs decreased to pre-1997 levels. Boundary Well 31D, the deepest well in Area B, started to show elevated levels of PCE.
- November 1999: PCE concentrations were comparable to 1998 levels. The concentration level in Well 31D increased to 2,000 ppb.
- August 2000: PCE concentrations were greatly reduced at most western wells and Well 31D in the east.
- January/February 2001 (Results not Fully Validated): Overall levels of PCE in the area were lower. The center of the plume may be shifting east.

Groundwater elevation levels in January 2001 were similar to levels found in November 2000, but slightly lower than levels found in 1997.

Lieutenant Colonel Springer presented a slide show of a series of photographs that show the progress of the project at Area B-11. Assembly of the sprung structure began in the morning and was completed by the end of the day. The sprung structure is built in two halves. After completion of pit delineation, a crane will move each half of the sprung structure. The freeze pipes will be inserted into the ground and the freezing process will begin. The sprung structure will then be put back into place prior to beginning excavation. A worker demonstrated the process of putting on the personal protective equipment, which took about 15 minutes with assistance from three men.

Mr. Gerald Toomey asked about the fabric of the sprung structure. Mr. Bruce Ware responded that the fabric is high-class thick, protective material. He agreed to get additional information on the fabric, including the specifications and the fire rating, and forward it to Lieutenant Colonel Springer for distribution to the RAB membership by e-mail, prior to the next meeting.

8. Area B-11 Project Update, Odor Suppressant & Generator Muffler

Mr. Meyer stated that Ecosorb Natural Organic Odor Neutralizer will be used to break down and eliminate organic and inorganic odors. Ecosorb is safe for both workers and the environment. Ecosorb is an odor neutralizer, not a masking agent. It will be diluted with water and applied as a fine mist, which will attract odor molecules. Additional information can be obtained on-line at http://www.odormanagement.com/.

Mr. Meyer stated that they performed further analysis on the power requirements. After talking with the local power company, they decided to bring power in rather than use generators in order to save money. The cost to bring in the power will still cost $60,000 to $80,000. A 300kW generator will be used as a backup. The noise level for this generator is only 71dBs at a distance of 21 feet.

9. Die Trace Study Work Plan Update

Major objectives are:

- To determine points to which deep groundwater in the vicinity of Area B-11 flows.
- To determine flow velocities of groundwater through the deep groundwater system from the vicinity of Area B-11 to on-site and off-site wells, springs, and streams.

Data obtained will be used in the Area B FS to determine appropriate action for off-site groundwater contamination. Dues to be used are Eosine, Fluorescein, and RhodamineWT. All three dyes were used in the 1995 investigation. Dye sampling methods will be charcoal samplers (packets filled with activated carbon) and periodic grab water samples of water from private wells. Mr. Meyer presented a map of sampling stations near Areas A and B. Samples will be taken at 148 locations and will require 54 rights-of-entry. Sampling will be done approximately twice per week for the first three weeks and periodically for an additional 25 weeks. An Area A dye study will occur at the same time at an additional 27 locations.

10. Area C Update

The major finding of this study was a larger area of ash disposal than previously anticipated. Ash is distributed about six to eight feet deep in one core area and as thin lenses over a larger area. Fort Detrick is looking at a removal action for this ash. Based upon analytical data, the ash is most likely non-hazardous. Funding constraints may prevent completion of the RI/FS during Fiscal Year 2001.

11. Outreach Efforts

Lieutenant Colonel Springer stated that internal discussions were held about having a media day at the sprung structure, after the freeze wall is installed and the sprung structure is back in place and before the inside of the sprung structure goes "hot." The tour will allow people (such as RAB members, VIPs, media, and members of the general public) to see the inside of the sprung structure and will include an explanation of the process and the equipment. The window for scheduling this event will be a maximum of approximately three weeks, possibly in June or July 2001. Transportation to the site will most likely be accomplished by using buses. Additional information will be provided at the next RAB meeting.

Lieutenant Colonel Springer announced that a lady with html experience will begin working for him in April on a temporary part-time basis. One of her jobs will be to update the RAB web site with daily photographs and additional public information. We are also looking at preparing a package to include a letter, an information paper, photographs, and contact names/telephone numbers for distribution to area residents to explain in advance what will happen in Area B. Lieutenant Colonel Springer asked for additional ideas on ways to keep the public informed. Suggestions were discussed and included placing a sign at the gate and holding a public meeting.

12. Date/Agenda Items for Next Meeting

RAB meetings are held bimonthly on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 9, 2001, at 7:30 p.m., at Fort Detrick.

<u>Agenda items for the next meeting:</u>

- Sampling results from wells immediately west of Area B (Kemp Lane and Granalta Circle)
- USEPA EPIC Study
- Update on chemical oxidation study
- Update on Area C
- Media day update
- Slide show with new photographs from Area B
- Standard updates
- Update on Krantz property

13. Meeting Summary

Ms. Robinson thanked Lieutenant Colonel Springer for his frequent updates on Area B and thanked both Lieutenant Colonel Springer and his daughter for the cookies provided at the meeting.

Colonel Greenwood thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting and expressed his appreciation for the positive meeting results. He asked everyone to keep the dialogue going and to be sure we have his/her correct e-mail address for sending out updates.

14. Meeting Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Reviewed by: //s//
Jeffery C. Springer, P.E.
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Co-Chairman

Approved/Disapproved //s//
James R. Greenwood
Colonel, U.S. Army
Deputy Installation Commander

2 Enclosures
1. Fort Detrick RI/FS
2. News Article, Frederick Post, March 10, 2001

DISTRIBUTION:
Each RAB Member
Each Meeting Attendee